

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 9 (Canceled)

10. (Original) A filter for a medium passing therethrough, comprising:

a filter body including a plurality of filter openings;

said filter openings each having a passage cross-section; and

said filter opening passage cross-sections vary automatically in response to a variable inherent in the medium passing therethrough.

11. (Original) The filter according to claim 10, including said filter openings substantially screened or covered over by means whose position relative to said filter openings varies under the influence of the heat of said medium passing therethrough.

12. (Original) The filter according to claim 11, including said means including a perforated plate with openings somewhat longer than openings formed in a filter plate and said perforated plate is shifted under the influence of the heat of said medium passing therethrough by means of at least one element acting on said filter plate.

13. (Original) The filter according to claim 12, including said element is a spring element which varies in the effective length of said spring element under the influence of the heat of said medium passing through said filter openings.

14. (Original) The filter according to claim 13, including said spring element formed from a shape memory alloy.

15. (Original) The filter according to claim 13, including said spring element supported on a first side by a fixed edge of said filter body and on an opposite side against an edge of said perforated plate.

16. (Original) The filter according to claim 15, including at least one spring element is affixed to said perforated plate.

17. (Original) The filter according to claim 15, including at least one reset spring opposing said spring element on an opposite side of said perforated plate.

18. (Currently amended) A dishwashing machine including a filter for a medium passing therethrough, comprising:

a filter body including a plurality of filter openings;  
said filter openings each having a passage cross-section; and  
means for varying said filter opening passage cross-sections ~~vary~~ automatically in response to a variable inherent in the medium passing therethrough.

19. (Original) The dishwashing machine according to claim 18, including said filter openings substantially screened or covered over by means whose position relative to said filter openings varies under the influence of the heat of said medium passing therethrough.

20. (Original) The dishwashing machine according to claim 19, including said means including a perforated plate with openings somewhat longer than openings formed in a filter plate and said perforated plate is shifted under the influence of the heat of said medium passing therethrough by means of at least one element acting on said filter plate.

21. (Original) The dishwashing machine according to claim 20, including said element is a spring element which varies in the effective length of said spring element under the influence of the heat of said medium passing through said filter openings.

22. (Original) The dishwashing machine according to claim 21, including said spring element formed from a shape memory alloy.

23. (Original) The dishwashing machine according to claim 21, including said spring element supported on a first side by a fixed edge of said filter body and on an opposite side against an edge of said perforated plate.

24. (Original) The dishwashing machine according to claim 23, including at least one spring element is affixed to said perforated plate.

25. (Original) The dishwashing machine according to claim 23, including at least one reset spring opposing said spring element on an opposite side of said perforated plate.

26. (New) The dishwashing machine according to claim 18 wherein said means for varying said filter opening passage cross-sections automatically in response to a variable inherent in the medium passing therethrough includes  
a perforated plate with openings, said perforated plate being shiftable relative to said filter openings between a first position and a second position such that, in said first position, said openings of said perforated plate are at offset from said filter openings such that said perforated plate substantially screens or covers over said filter openings and, in said second position, said openings of said perforated plate are at a lesser offset to said filter openings than in said first position such that said perforated plate does not screen or cover over said filter openings to the same extent as in said first position, and  
at least one element acting on said said perforated plate to shift said perforated plate under the influence of a change of temperature of said medium passing therethrough between said first position and said second position.

27. (New) A filter for a medium passing therethrough, comprising:  
a filter body including a plurality of filter openings;  
said filter openings each having a passage cross-section; and

means for varying said filter opening passage cross-sections automatically in response to a variable inherent in the medium passing therethrough, said means for varying said filter opening passage cross-sections including:

a perforated plate with openings, said perforated plate being shiftable relative to said filter openings between a first position and a second position such that, in said first position, said openings of said perforated plate are at offset from said filter openings such that said perforated plate substantially screens or covers over said filter openings and, in said second position, said openings of said perforated plate are at a lesser offset to said filter openings than in said first position such that said perforated plate does not screen or cover over said filter openings to the same extent as in said first position, and

at least one element acting on said said perforated plate to shift said perforated plate under the influence of a change of temperature of said medium passing therethrough between said first position and said second position.

28. (New) The filter according to claim 27, including said element is a spring element which varies in the effective length of said spring element under the influence of the heat of said medium passing through said filter openings.

29. (New) The filter according to claim 28, including said spring element formed from a shape memory alloy.

30. (New) The filter according to claim 28, including said spring element supported on a first side by a fixed edge of said filter body and on an opposite side against an edge of said perforated plate.